



Urban District Council of Chesham

Reports

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year 1968

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T S

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1968

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor W.L. Sills, J.P.

HEALTH, PLANNING AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor F.O. Bell, O.B.E., B.A.

Councillor D.E. Carlin

Councillor A.H.J. Baines, M.A., C.C.

Councillor B.S. Biro

Councillor R.F. Nutman

Councillor Mrs. K.L. Harries

Councillor W.J. Phelps

Councillor J.M. Gibson

Councillor A.D. Scollay

Councillor W.L. Sills, J.P.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

B.H. Burne, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Winifred J. Risk, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector

L.D. Saturley, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., F.I.H.M.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

A.P. Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Other Appointment: Deputy Housing Manager to Chesham Urban District Council

Additional Public Health Inspector

D.D.F. Marsh, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
(Resigned 5.5.68)

G.H. Lavender, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.,
M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed 3.9.68)

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer

Clerk

J.C. How

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. E.G. Barron

Copy Typist & Records Clerk

Miss C.A. Rosser
(Resigned 31.5.68)

Miss G. Briggs
(Appointed 20.5.68)

Junior Clerk

Miss L.J. Keen
(Resigned 11.10.68)

Miss C.P. Perry
(Appointed 28.10.68)

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 2622

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Chesham,
Bucks.

August 1969

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the
Chesham Urban District Council

Dear Members,

Health Education is one of the fields where District Councils can exercise a considerable influence. Without an informed public many of the measures to promote health and well-being would fare badly. It is always easy to preach to the converted but very difficult to teach those with more entrenched attitudes. Increasingly we are becoming aware that attitudes are formed very early in life: social psychology tells us usually by about the age of 7 or 8 years for children making a normal rate of maturity.

Much of health education is therefore necessarily directed at the untelling of 'Old Wives' Tales' and unfixing of established thoughts and ideas. To use a much-quoted example, may I take the hazards of smoking? Thirty years ago children used commonly to be told that "smoking stunts the growth". This was clearly untrue because there are many tall smokers. Although this well-intentioned advice is intuitively correct it is factually incorrect. Children are, I hope, in a better position today to obtain accurate factual health information. They ought to know, for instance, that women who smoke during pregnancy are liable to produce rather puny babies. Surely their best source of health facts is through the schools and other local agencies.

The so-called "Mass Media" are usually considered the most rapid and general means of getting information over to the public. In my view, however, the big drawbacks are: (1) the frequent confusion between "entertainment" and "information", (2) the accent of the dramatic even in such routine items as "the news". Journalists tend to be more interested in crises or a conflict than the banal and this reflects in the contents of the national press and television. It is small wonder that the average reader or viewer is often left with two opposing views to reconcile. As he is normally of average intelligence and, unless he has some particular health expertise, he is left confused, ambivalent and inactive. For what is needed is not only the inculcation of healthy views, but healthy action in daily life. We want parents who not only encourage non-smoking self-discipline in their children, but who are prepared to carry this out themselves. Teachers in their role of model parents need to be of similar calibre.

In cancer prevention we need women to visit cervical cytology clinics, not just talk of doing so. We need young people entering the particularly active sexual phase of life to seek contraceptive advice. At present mostly it is the more mature and the more intelligent who take steps in this direction. The more immature, passive and impulsive seldom do.

All professional people have a responsibility to educate. In this sense the doctor (=wise man) has been given by society a privileged education which he is willing to share with those willing to listen. We as school doctors share our knowledge with school children, parents and teachers. Perhaps we ought to have our place in the school curriculum. Such time is not wasted academically. Even five minutes with a group of children may be vital to their future personal health and welfare. School children do need information on such subjects as human relations, human biology, occupational and common diseases, venereal diseases, the use and abuse of alcohol and of drugs, dangerous habits like smoking and bad driving. Teaching in the future must give some knowledge of factors concerned in the maintenance of health, like immunisation, adequate nutrition, adequately fluoridated water, cancer and how it can be avoided. Handicaps of body and mind demand individual adjustments at all ages and amongst all groups of the population. Education should aim at teaching personal adaptability.

I am increasingly convinced that health education is a long-term process going on throughout life. Children are capable of flashes of insight even at the primary school stage. Later, as adolescents, they look to their peers for advice as well as from their elders. Let us hope they not only choose intelligent and well-balanced informants as contemporary trend setters but let us also ensure that teachers and parents direct their attention to accurate sources of information so that they themselves are in a position to give the answers. Health is not such a mean subject that it ought to be brushed under the carpet.

Who knows but that one day some of these children may eventually be councillors of a new local authority having responsibility actively to promote the continued improvement of health at a local level and having an informed, positive contribution to make.

Yours sincerely,

B.H. BURNE

Medical Officer of Health

ARRANGEMENT OF REPORTS

| | <u>Page Nos.</u> |
|--|------------------|
| <u>SECTION I - GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS</u> | 1 - 5 |
| General Statistics | |
| Vital Statistics | |
| <u>SECTION II - HEALTH SERVICES</u> | 6 - 9 |
| Hospital Services | |
| Laboratory Facilities | |
| Ambulance Service | |
| Midwifery and Home Nursing | |
| Cervical Cytology | |
| Child Health Clinics | |
| Medical Comforts Depot | |
| Public Health Dentistry | |
| <u>SECTION III - NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS</u> | 10 - 12 |
| Chesham Old People's Welfare Committee | |
| <u>SECTION IV - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE</u> | 13 - 15 |
| Notifications | |
| Immunisation and Vaccination | |
| Mass Radiography | |
| <u>SECTION V - PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS</u> | 16 - 21 |
| Inspection of the Area | |
| Insect Pests | |
| Public Health Acts | |
| Informal Action | |
| Statutory Notices | |
| Noise Abatement | |
| Clean Air | |

SECTION VI - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

22 - 39

Water Supply

Public Swimming Baths

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Slum Clearance: The Improvement of Old
Houses

Grants for the Improvement of Old Houses

Improvement of Pre-War Council Houses

Housing Repairs

Housing in Multiple Occupation

Council Housing

Caravan Sites

Rodent Control

Rag Flock

Welfare of Animals

Hairdressers and Barbers

Factories

Offices and Shops

SECTION VII - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

40 - 46

ANNEX

47 - 51

Prescribed particulars on the administration
of the Factories Act, 1961.

Prescribed particulars in the Annual Report
to the Ministry of Labour on the
administration of the Offices, Shops and
Railway Premises Act, 1963.

S E C T I O N I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

1. GENERAL STATISTICS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Population, Census 1951 | 11,433 |
| Population, Census 1961 | 16,297 |
| Population (estimated mid-year 1968) | 20,400 |
| Area (acres of District) | 3,489 |
| Number of separate dwellings (per Valuation List) | 6,834 |
| Rateable Value of Area (31.12.68) | £952,772 |
| Product of Penny Rate 1968/69 (probable) | £3,960 |

Comparative Statistics - 1934 - 1968

| | YEAR | | |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|
| | 1934 | 1967 | 1968 |
| Population | 10,240 | 19,950 | 20,400 |
| Rateable Value | £56,463 | £914,475 | £952,772 |
| Product of Penny Rate | £212 | £3,766 | £3,960 |
| Number of separate dwellings | 3,084 | 6,646 | 6,834 |

2. VITAL STATISTICS

| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 221 | 201 | 422 |
| Illegitimate | 7 | 12 | 19 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| All | 228 | 213 | 441 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

| | |
|---|------|
| Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population | 21.6 |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 population: England & Wales | 16.9 |
| * Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.84) | 18.1 |
| Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate | 1.07 |
| Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births | 4.3 |

| <u>Stillbirths</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 |

| <u>Total Live and Still Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 229 | 215 | 444 |

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still Births 6.8

| <u>Infant Deaths</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| ditto 4 weeks | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| ditto 1 week | 2 | 3 | 5 |

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births 15.9
 Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births 14.2

Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births 52.6

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births 15.9

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births 11.3

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) 18.0

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births Nil

| <u>Deaths</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| All causes | 95 | 95 | 190 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population | | | 9.3 |
| Death Rate per 1,000 population: England & Wales | | | 11.9 |
| * Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.21) | | | 11.3 |
| Ratio of Local adjusted Death Rate to National Death Rate | | | 0.95 |

* The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation (101) which caused approximately 53% of the deaths. Deaths from malignant conditions (34) accounted for approximately 18% of the total and those from pneumonia and bronchitis (24) for approximately 13%.

| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Measles | - | 1 | 1 |
| 2. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach | 3 | - | 3 |
| 3. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 4. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast | - | 1 | 1 |
| 5. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus | - | 1 | 1 |
| 6. Leukaemia | - | 1 | 1 |
| 7. Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc. | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 8. Mental Disorders | - | 1 | 1 |
| 9. Meningitis | 1 | - | 1 |
| 10. Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc. | - | 2 | 2 |
| 11. Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease | - | 1 | 1 |
| 12. Hypertensive Disease | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 13. Ischaemic Heart Disease | 31 | 20 | 51 |
| 14. Other Forms of Heart Disease | 3 | 10 | 13 |
| 15. Cerebrovascular Disease | 7 | 13 | 20 |
| 16. Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| 17. Influenza | - | 1 | 1 |
| 18. Pneumonia | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 19. Bronchitis and Emphysema | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| 20. Other Diseases of Respiratory System | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 21. Peptic Ulcer | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 22. Other Diseases of Digestive System | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 23. Nephritis and Nephrosis | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 24. Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System | 1 | - | 1 |
| 25. Congenital Anomalies | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 26. Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. | - | 1 | 1 |
| 27. Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 28. Motor Vehicle Accidents | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 29. All Other Accidents | - | 2 | 2 |
| | — | — | — |
| | 95 | 95 | 190 |
| | — | — | — |

POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR THE YEAR 1968

| District | Population Census 1961 | Registrar General Estimated Population Mid-1968 | BIRTHS | | DEATHS | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| | | | Number | Rate per 1,000 Population | Number | Rate per 1,000 Population |
| URBAN | | | | | | |
| Aylesbury | 27,923 | 35,990 | 762 | 21.2 | 316 | 8.8 |
| Beaconsfield | 10,013 | 11,840 | 154 | 13.0 | 94 | 7.9 |
| Bletchley | 17,095 | 26,440 | 618 | 23.4 | 165 | 6.2 |
| Buckingham | 4,379 | 4,890 | 89 | 18.2 | 45 | 9.2 |
| Chesham | 16,297 | 20,400 | 441 | 21.6 | 190 | 9.3 |
| | | | | | | |
| Eton | 3,894 | 5,420 | 46 | 8.5 | 35 | 6.5 |
| High Wycombe | 49,981 | 56,980 | 1,164 | 20.4 | 523 | 9.2 |
| Marlow | 8,724 | 10,750 | 212 | 19.7 | 109 | 10.1 |
| Newport Pagnell | 4,743 | 5,710 | 113 | 19.8 | 99 | 17.3 |
| Slough | 80,781 | 92,070 | 1,636 | 17.8 | 743 | 8.1 |
| Wolverton | 13,113 | 13,600 | 221 | 16.3 | 172 | 12.6 |
| TOTAL URBAN | 236,943 | 284,090 | 5,456 | 19.2 | 2,491 | 8.8 |
| RURAL | | | | | | |
| Amersham | 56,005 | 63,880 | 1,049 | 16.4 | 602 | 9.4 |
| Aylesbury | 33,336 | 36,520 | 630 | 17.3 | 403 | 11.0 |
| Buckingham | 8,477 | 9,810 | 137 | 14.0 | 90 | 9.2 |
| Eton | 66,932 | 72,080 | 1,005 | 13.9 | 629 | 8.7 |
| Newport Pagnell | 14,107 | 15,300 | 236 | 15.4 | 182 | 11.9 |
| Wing | 9,083 | 9,930 | 176 | 17.7 | 104 | 10.5 |
| Winslow | 7,939 | 9,540 | 175 | 18.3 | 138 | 14.5 |
| Wycombe | 51,252 | 66,960 | 1,281 | 19.1 | 515 | 7.7 |
| TOTAL RURAL | 247,151 | 284,020 | 4,689 | 16.5 | 2,663 | 9.4 |
| TOTAL COUNTY | 484,094 | 568,110 | 10,145 | 17.9 | 5,154 | 9.1 |
| ENGLAND AND WALES | 46,071,604 | 48,593,000 | 822,000* | 16.9 | 577,000 | 11.9 |

* Estimated

S E C T I O N I I

HEALTH SERVICES

1. HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | - Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common |
| General | - Chesham Cottage Hospital |
| | - Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury |
| | - Amersham General Hospital |
| | - Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury |
| | - Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury |
| | - Wycombe General Hospital |
| | - Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital |
| Infectious Diseases | - Isolation Hospital, Stoke Mandeville |
| Mental Illness | - St. John's Hospital, Stone |
| Maternity Cases | - The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St. Giles |
| | - Amersham General Hospital |

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford, Luton and Watford.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

The Public Analyst for Buckinghamshire is Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Analytical Laboratory, Stuart House, 1 Tudor Street, London, E.C.4

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the sub-station at Amersham from 7.00 a.m. - 11.00 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe provides a 24-hour cover to the whole of the area.

From the Autumn of 1968, the Casualty Department at the Amersham General Hospital opened only during the day. Casualties occurring during the evening, at night or on Saturday and Sunday, are treated at Wycombe General Hospital where there is a 24-hour service.

4. MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the undermentioned nurses:

| <u>Districts Served</u> | <u>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurses</u> | <u>Telephone Number</u> |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Chesham (except The Vale) | Miss M.E. Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. 29 Penn Avenue, Chesham | Chesham 2319 |
| | Mrs. F.M. Thomas, S.R.N., Q.N., 8 Cherry Tree Walk, Chesham | Chesham 4750 |
| | Mrs. S. Ginger, S.R.N., S.C.M., St. Ives, 199 Chartridge Lane, Chesham | Chesham 5126 |

5. CERVICAL CYTOLOGY National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 28

A Clinic has been established at Chesham Cottage Hospital and sessions are held on alternate Mondays between 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Applications for appointments may be made through the County Health Visitors, General Practitioners or at the Public Health Department.

6. CHILD HEALTH CLINICS

| | <u>Session</u> | <u>M.O. Attends</u> |
|---|---|--|
| Chesham School Clinic and Health Centre, Germain Street | 2.00 p.m. each Wednesday and Friday | 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday each month and 1st and 3rd Wednesday each month |
| Chesham Community Hall, Windsor Road, Pond Park | 2nd and 4th Monday at 2.00 p.m. each month | Each session |
| *Chartridge Village Hall | 3rd Thursday each month | Each session |

*Although situated in Amersham R.D., a number of Chesham residents form the clientele.

7. PROPOSED HEALTH CENTRE FOR CHESHAM National Health Service Act, 1946, Section 21

During the year a further meeting was arranged between general practitioners interested in this project and the County Medical Officer of Health, together with a representative from the Bucks. Executive Council. Negotiations on the planning of the site as part of the Civic Centre development are proceeding.

8. MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot situated at the rear of 122 High Street, Chesham, and organised by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, has again rendered valuable service not only in this area but throughout the county.

Close liaison is maintained with general practitioners, Hospital and County Medical Social Workers, Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives.

It is a pleasure to give below the interesting and informative report that has been received from Miss M.F. Wheeler, B.E.M., the officer in charge, on the work of the Depot during 1968.

"We sent out 3,122 articles during 1968, a smaller number than in 1967. This is partly due to fewer maternity cases (145 in 1968, 172 in 1967). We also noticed that hospitals sometimes discharge patients and equip them with goods from hospital stock. The number of applications to the Depot on behalf of invalids totalled 950 which, with the maternity cases, made 1,095 applications.

The Depot received very valuable support during the year from many kind people - the Rotary and Round Table Clubs, with a most generous gift; the John Jackson Darts Team; the Urban District Council; the Sick Poor Fund. Many individual gifts were made, and our gratitude to all who helped us is indeed heartfelt.

We continue to help the young as well as the aged. During the year we have had at times as many as 8 child patients requiring wheel chairs at the same time. In August we had 105 modern wheel chairs out in use.

The more expensive equipment is constantly in use - notably the alternating pressure air beds, which are so urgently needed by the paralysed patient, by some cases of Parkinson's disease, and by those enduring a terminal cancer.

We value our connection with the County Council staff, its nurses, Medical Social Workers and Health Visitors. It is a privilege to co-operate with them in their professional treatment of illness and disability, and so repay, in some measure, the County Council's generosity in allowing us the use of their building for our work."

9. PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY

(a) Visit of Undergraduate Dental Students

As mentioned in the report for 1967, a visit of fourth year dental undergraduates from the Royal Dental Hospital, London, took place in May 1968. A very full programme was arranged for the day to show them local public health services, health and welfare services and other aspects of community health in the town. The proceedings were written up by Mr. M.A. Young, Senior Lecturer in Children's Dentistry at the Hospital, and are expected to be published in the British Dental Journal.

(b) Fluoridation of Water Supplies

This matter was discussed in Council in December 1968. It was decided not to go ahead with the previous decision to fluoridate the water supply of the Council's undertaking, although the Health Authority had already agreed to do this. The decision was made against the advice of the Health Committee and was not based on any fresh evidence brought to the Council. I regard this decision as a set-back to the improvement of health in Chesham. It should, of course, be noted that it is still possible to reverse the decision during the current financial year (1969/70) for which the Health Authority has made an appropriate financial allocation. As mentioned elsewhere in the report, the town's people are already drinking fluoridated water; it is just the level of fluoride that needs to be adjusted.

S E C T I O N I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

1. REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a magistrate or a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

In general it is felt preferable for persons of good mental state to be persuaded to accept more suitable care voluntarily. Most patients and relatives will accept the combined advice of both general practitioner and medical officer of health and can see the advantages of informal admissions and discharges.

No formal action under this Section was taken during the year.

2. BURIAL OR CREMATION OF THE DEAD

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

The burial of one person was arranged under this Section during the year.

3. CHESHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Temperance Hall, leased from the Chesham Council and opened in January 1961, has continued to be the centre of activity by this Committee. The Hall is open daily between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for the use of the elderly people of the town and a wide range of amenities and services are provided. Full details of these services are given in a booklet published by the Committee and distributed to interested persons throughout the town.

Mrs. L.M. Esseen, J.P., the Secretary to the Committee, has reported as follows on the activities of the centre during 1968:

"An important part of the work of the O.P.W. Committee is the provision of 75-80 meals by the 'Meals-on-Wheels' service to house-bound old folks, and about the same number of meals served to old people living alone - twice a week in Temperance Hall. This latter serves a second purpose of helping to relieve loneliness. These are all cooked and served or delivered by voluntary help under the able supervision of Mrs. Colwill, to all of whom the Committee is greatly indebted.

A second function is the Chiropody service by professionals with voluntary help for the clerical work etc. This costs the Committee approximately £175 per year. Hairdressing is also done by voluntary help. A shampoo and set still costs 1/-d, as it did when the service started seven years ago: no inflation here, and it pays! Free perms are also given by a local hairdresser under the auspices of O.P.C; each old lady has a perm every six months. Again the Committee is very grateful to those stalwarts who run these services.

The Clubs go from strength to strength. Numbers tend to increase despite natural wastages. Two holidays are arranged each year, one in May and one in September. The average cost to the old person is £9 per head which includes all transport and some trips, and this can be saved for during the year through the Clubs. Two Clubs hold annual Christmas parties, and one holds a birthday party instead. A feature of these club meetings is hospitality given and received from other O.P. Clubs and talks on a wide variety of subjects.

The estate car continues to give good service for transport of goods and people, for Meals-on-Wheels and for publicity.

The Committee is self-supporting, receiving only a small grant from the local Council, but lots of help and encouragement. Like all other organisations that have run for some time - in this case for over ten years - a need arises for fresh blood to be instilled into the Committee which is in danger of staleness leading to eventual collapse if it remains dependant on the same few officers and helpers. This is a local organisation of which the community can be proud - having as it has national interest and recognition, it is held as an example to new committees starting up. Lots more local interest and encouragement and some new people and ideas would be extremely welcome."

4. HOMELESS FAMILIES
Case Conferences on Families in Need

These are conferences of professional workers active in the field of child and family care. They include health visitors, educational welfare officers, health and welfare officers, together with representatives from probation offices, children's departments, housing departments and voluntary agencies such as the N.S.P.C.C. At the meetings, which occur regularly during the year, information is exchanged in order to co-ordinate the services available and to prevent families becoming homeless.

S E C T I O N I V

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below gives the cases of infectious disease notified during 1968, together with figures for the two previous years:

| Disease | Cases Notified | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|------|------|
| | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 |
| Measles | 323 | 353 | 1 |
| Sonne ¹ Dysentery | 4 | - | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| *Infective Hepatitis | 13 | 10 | 13 |
| Scarlet Fever | 10 | 2 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | - | - |
| Malaria | - | - | 1 |
| Meningococcal Septicaemia | - | - | 1 |

*Infective Hepatitis became notifiable within the District from the 1st. September 1966.

2. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(a) Smallpox Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated against Smallpox in the various age groups is shown in the table below:

| | 0-3 months | 3-6 months | 6-9 months | 9-12 months | 1 year | 2-4 years | 5-14 years | 15 & over | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Smallpox Vaccination | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 214 | 94 | 19 | 2 | 343 |
| Re- Vaccination | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 27 | 1 | 33 |
| | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 214 | 99 | 46 | 3 | 376 |

The Ministry of Health now recommends that Smallpox vaccination of children be carried out between the ages of one and two years. The incidence of side-effects from vaccination is known to be less in this age group.

(b) Ministry of Health Circular 15/67
Distribution of Smallpox Vaccine

Under the arrangements described in the Circular, a supply of Smallpox vaccine is held in the Public Health Department and is available to local general practitioners.

During 1968, 1,228 doses were issued.

(c) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

The schedule for the use of triple antigens - containing pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic - was changed during the year following the advice of the Standing Advisory Committee to the Ministry on the subject. The current arrangement is that parents are encouraged to have their children immunised with triple antigens at about four months and again at about six months; a third dose is given at about one year of age. The following table gives the numbers of children who were protected against these diseases:

| Year of Birth | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958/3 | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| Primary Diph. | - | 17 | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Primary Diph./ Tet. | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 | 1 | 8 | 1 | - | 2 | 1 |
| Primary Triple | 37 | 216 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 27 |
| Reinforcing Injection | - | 36 | 85 | 34 | 31 | 283 | 67 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 13 | 56 |
| Primary Tetanus | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| | 37 | 269 | 98 | 38 | 37 | 288 | 71 | 25 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 89 |

Most vaccinations are now done following appointments arranged by the County Health Authority's computer, whether or not the general practitioner or medical officer attending the child health clinic gives the vaccination.

(d) Measles

Measles vaccine, which was offered initially to children of infant school age, was made generally available during the year. This is given during the second year.

(e) Poliomyelitis

No separate figures for Poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the District.

(f) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. vaccination at the age of 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with Tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis, and in this context it is interesting to note the following figures:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Tuberculin Positive</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1957 | 19.2% |
| 1958 | 14.1% |
| 1959 | 13.0% |
| 1960 | 10.5% |
| 1961 | 6.5% |
| 1962 | 4.4% |
| 1963 | 4.0% |
| 1964 | 6.0% |
| 1965 | 4.0% |
| 1966 | 4.8% |
| 1967 | 4.9% |
| 1968 | 4.7% |

Those children who react strongly to this test are referred to the County Chest Physician for further investigation, and usually a chest X-ray.

3. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The report of the mobile Radiography Service for 1968 had not been received at the time of compiling this report.

4. INFLUENZA

In late 1968, arrangements were made for members of the staff who wished it to be vaccinated against Hongkong 'flu, but fortunately the disease failed to materialise in this locality.

S E C T I O N V

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

1. INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The number and nature of visits made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year is given below:

| <u>Housing Acts</u> | <u>No. of Visits</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Houses inspected under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied) | 10 |
| Houses revisited under Housing Acts (except multi-occupied) | 11 |
| Multi-occupied houses | 37 |
| Overcrowding and "permitted numbers" surveys ... | 1 |
| Visits under Rent Acts | 2 |
| Visits in connection with improvement grants ... | 104 |
| Survey of houses for improvement areas | - |
| Compulsory improvement of houses | 5 |
| Visits to housing applicants | 3 |
| <u>Public Health Acts</u> | |
| Primary visits to houses re defects | 30 |
| Revisits to houses re defects | 74 |
| Nuisances from Animals and Refuse | 71 |
| Caravan Sites | 3 |
| Water Supplies | 93 |
| Swimming Pool and Paddling Pool | 5 |
| Sewers, Drains and Cesspools | 43 |
| Drain Tests | - |
| Sanitary Accommodation | 14 |
| <u>Factories</u> | |
| Power Factories | 97 |
| Non-Power Factories | 2 |
| Other Premises (e.g. Building Sites) | 1 |
| Outworkers Premises | 1 |
| <u>Food, and Food Premises</u> | |
| Butchers | 66 |
| Grocers | 129 |
| Fishmongers | 8 |
| Restaurants, Cafes and Hotels | 38 |
| Works and School Canteens | 20 |

| <u>Food, and Food Premises (continued)</u> | | | | | | | | <u>No. of Visits</u> |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Bakehouses and Confectioners | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| Ice-cream Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Food Manufacturing Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Visits to inspect foodstuffs or take samples | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Food Vehicles and stalls inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| <u>Offices, Shops and Railway Premises</u> | | | | | | | | |
| General Inspections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116 |
| Other visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 149 |
| Investigation of Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| <u>Rodent and Insect Pest Control</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Rodent Control | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Insect Pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Disinfestation for Insect Pests | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| <u>Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Infectious Disease enquiries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Disinfections carried out | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Food Poisoning enquiries | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| <u>Noise Abatement</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Visits to premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Observations only | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| <u>Clean Air</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Visits to Plant or Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| Observations only | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31 |
| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Agricultural Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pet Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Animal Boarding Establishments | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Rag Flock Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Knacker's Yard | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Hairdressers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Interviews | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 553 |
| Other miscellaneous visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |
| No access - no one at home | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |

Complaints

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department 111
(excluding complaints of rats, mice and insects
which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report)

2. INSECT PESTS

Numerous requests are made to the Public Health Department for help in dealing with insect pests. Advice on appropriate control methods is given and where necessary treatments are carried out by the staff of the Department.

The most urgent calls for assistance are received from the occupiers of premises where wasps' nests have been located. In 1968 these calls were fewer than usual and only 13 wasps' nests were destroyed, as against 144 the previous year. Eight complaints of bees were also dealt with. No charge has been made for this service.

A variety of other insect pests were treated at 28 premises.

3. STRAY CATS

In recent years reports have been received about the presence of stray cats in the town, and persons concerned with this problem looked to the Council to take some action. The animals were becoming a nuisance around blocks of Council dwellings occupied by elderly people, and it was decided to purchase two specially designed cat traps. Trapping operations were carried out by the Council's Rodent Officer and the animals destroyed humanely by a local veterinary surgeon. In 1968 the Rodent Officer was engaged on this work on 28 separate occasions; about 20 stray cats were trapped.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

As a result of the investigation of complaints and during the course of routine work a wide variety of sanitary defects and nuisances are met and dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. In the majority of cases remedies are effected following written or verbal requests made by the Public Health Inspectors, without resort to statutory procedure.

During 1968, 31 written requests were made with respect to various defects. A table showing the type of matters dealt with follows.

| DEFECT | NO. OF OCCURRENCES |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dampness in dwellings | 14 |
| Defective roofs | 8 |
| Defective walls and brickwork | 4 |
| Defective roof surface water drainage | 11 |
| Defective ceilings | 3 |
| Defective floors | 3 |
| Defective windows | 11 |
| Defective drainage systems | 3 |
| Overflowing drainage systems | 2 |
| Defective water closets | 5 |
| Accumulations of refuse | 6 |
| TOTAL | 70 |

5. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - STATUTORY NOTICES

If within a reasonable time the informal action described above fails to secure the remedy of sanitary defects or the abatement of nuisances, the matters concerned are reported to the Council's Health Committee, which authorises statutory notices to be served. The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year.

| ACT & SECTION | DETAILS | NUMBER OF NOTICES | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | Outstand- ing on 1.1.68 | Served | Complied with | Outstand- ing on 31.12.68 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 | | | | | |
| Section 39 | Defective drainage | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Section 45 | Defective water closets | 1 | 1 | 2 | - |
| Section 93 | Dampness in dwellings | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Public Health Act, 1961 | | | | | |
| Section 17 | Blocked drainage | - | 1 | 1* | - |
| | TOTAL | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 |

*work executed by Council labour in default and expenses recovered from owners

Work Carried out by the Council

It was necessary to utilise the Council's powers on several occasions to clear stoppages in drainage systems common to groups of old houses. Under the Public Health Act, 1936, these systems are "public sewers" which the Council has a duty to "maintain, cleanse and empty", although the costs of any works of repair or renewal are recoverable. The work has been carried out by labour from the Surveyor's Department. The absence of proper inspection chambers to old drainage systems often makes the work of clearing stoppages a lengthy process.

6. NOISE ABATEMENT

The Noise Abatement Act, 1960, empowers a local authority to take action in respect of nuisances caused by noise and vibration.

A total of eight complaints of noise were received during the year. Three of the complaints related to noise from industrial premises; two were of activities at private houses; two were of noise from pneumatic drills and one was about the cooing of feral pigeons. All the complaints were investigated, but no grounds for taking statutory action were established.

Reduction of Noise from Concrete Breakers

In April 1968 the Council resolved that steps should be taken to reduce the noise created when pneumatic road breakers, etc., were used in the district. These steps included the provision of mufflers on Council owned equipment and the stipulation that appropriate clauses should be inserted in public works contracts negotiated by the Council, requiring contractors to take precautions to reduce the noise emitted by road breaking plant. The clauses included a restriction on the hours of work during which this equipment should be used. County Council officers indicated that similar provisions would be included in contracts drawn up by them, and it is to be hoped that statutory undertakers will also co-operate in this noise abatement measure by "silencing" equipment used by them.

A worthwhile reduction in noise can be achieved by providing silencers for compressors and mufflers for drills, and the cost of doing so is comparatively small with no loss in working efficiency.

7. CLEAN AIR

New legislation, in the form of The Clean Air Act, 1968, was introduced during the year and, together with The Clean Air Act, 1956, makes provision for abating the pollution of the air.

During the year the Council considered adopting a policy of declaring smoke control areas in respect of new Council housing estates, but it was decided not to proceed. (All solid fuel appliances installed in new houses, Council or privately owned, must be capable of burning smokeless fuel, but until smoke control orders are applied, householders are free to use any fuel.)

A common complaint received from the public was again about the burning of trade refuse on bonfires. Progress continues to be made towards abating this nuisance, some firms having their trade refuse collected by the Council at a charge and others making private arrangements for the disposal of their refuse.

An increasing number of business concerns purchase incinerators on which to burn their refuse. The manufacturers of many of these incinerators claim them to be capable of being operated smokelessly, but it has been found in practice that insufficient attention is given to the operation of the incinerators to achieve this condition.

Section 3 of the 1956 Act requires new industrial furnaces to be as smokeless as practicable, and the local authority must be notified of new installations. No notifications of new furnaces were received during the year.

The Acts give the local authority control over the heights of furnace chimneys. During the year one plan showing a new chimney was approved.

S E C T I O N VI

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Water Supplies

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council's Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's Undertaking supplies about 82% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

In response to a letter from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, six samples of water were taken from houses in various parts of the district served by the Council's main. The samples were from taps connected to lead supply pipes in which water had laid overnight. The Public Analyst reported that no measurable quantities of lead were detected in any of the samples.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:

| | No. of Houses | No. of Caravans | Estimated Population |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Internal Piped Supply | 6,800 | - | 20,305 |
| External Supply (Standpipes) | 13 | 4 | 35 |

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Seventy-five samples, sixty six for bacteriological examination and nine for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or the Public Analyst. Six bacteriological results were unsatisfactory. Following remedial action, further samples were taken and satisfactory results were obtained.

All remaining samples were reported to be of high chemical and bacteriological purity suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Chemical Analysis

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from four different sources of mains water:

| <u>Reference No.</u> | <u>Sample Collected From</u> | <u>Water Undertaking</u> | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| M.185 | 24 Fair Leas, Chesham | Chesham U.D.C. | | | |
| M.101 | 54 Little Hivings, Chesham | Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Co. (Rickmansworth Main) | | | |
| M.257 | 1 Cresswell Road, Chesham | "- (Amersham Main) | | | |
| M.238 | Garage, Ashley Green Road, Chesham | "- (Berkhamsted Main) | | | |
| | <u>Sample Ref. No:</u> | <u>M.185</u> | <u>M.101</u> | <u>M.257</u> | <u>M.238</u> |
| Appearance | | All clear and colourless | | | |
| Reaction (pH) | | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.4 |
| | | Parts per million | | | |
| Free Chlorine | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Total Solids | | 412 | 308 | 376 | 348 |
| Loss on Ignition | | 136 | - | - | - |
| Chlorine in Chlorides | | 16.5 | 13 | 23 | 17 |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen | | Nil | 0.02 | Nil | Nil |
| Albuminoid Nitrogen | | 0.02 | 0.033 | 0.016 | 0.02 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | | 10 | 3.0 | 2.8 | 3.5 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen | | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.) | | 0.16 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Hardness, Temporary | | 241 | 253 | 255 | 250 |
| Permanent | | 7 | 32 | 21 | 24 |
| Total | | 248 | 285 | 276 | 274 |
| Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc | | Not found | | | |

Fluoride Content of Water

The fluoride content of both water from the Chesham supply and that of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley, is .04 p.p.m. or less.

(b) Private Well Supplies

Twenty-one dwellings and two business premises in the District are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and the water is of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1968, together with the results of examinations carried out:

| | SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| | Number of Samples | Result of Examination | | |
| | | Satisfactory | Suspicious | Unsatisfactory |
| Bacteriological Examination | 23 | 18 | 3 | 2 |
| Chemical Analysis | 3 | 3 | - | - |

The five suspicious and unsatisfactory samples were all from one source. Remedial measures were taken by the owner and the supply yielded satisfactory results on subsequent sampling.

2. PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

The Council's open Swimming Bath on the Moor continued to operate during the summer months.

The bath is filled with water from a well on the site, and the filtration and chlorination plant continues to ensure that the water is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. Five samples of water from the bath were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

The programme of improvements to the bath has been held up by financial restriction, but it is hoped to go ahead with the proposal for heating of the pool in 1969.

Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

The pool continues to be popular with small children and is filled with water from the Town's mains supply, and further chlorinated and renewed at frequent intervals.

3. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on a separate system, foul sewers discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Works in Latimer Road.

So far as the Sewerage Works reconstruction is concerned, the contract has overrun time but the first stage of the new works, that is the additional filters, humus tanks and main pumping station, were operative in September and the new inlet screens, detritter, settlement tanks and sludge digestion tanks became operative towards the end of November.

Teething troubles are being experienced with certain of the plant and steps are being taken to overcome the problems as they are encountered.

Parts of the District not served by Public Sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least two months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham district consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

Cesspool Emptying

The Council's machine emptied 417 cesspools during the year, 396 at premises within the District, the remainder in adjoining areas.

4. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and certain Trade Refuse is collected within the Urban District and disposal of this is by incineration at the Council's refuse destructor in Latimer Road.

Storage of Household Refuse

The paper sack system of refuse storage was introduced at further new dwellings on Council estates during 1968.

5. SLUM CLEARANCE:
THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

Individual Unfit Houses

During 1968 a closing order was applied to one unfit house.

Action to secure the demolition, closure or renovation of a further 19 unfit houses had commenced at the end of the year or was being planned to take place in 1969. It is estimated that after these houses have been dealt with, the number of unfit houses in the district will be 20. The majority of these houses are situated in streets or areas where, because of their special merit or character, the Council wish to preserve rather than see the demolition of the buildings. Ten of the dwellings are in fact "scheduled buildings". In dealing with unfit houses, the Council has for several years followed a policy of encouraging owners to improve and renovate houses. Many formerly unfit houses have already been improved. Formal procedure under the Housing Acts has only been adopted when owners have failed to produce voluntary proposals and urgent action is needed to deal with the unfitness and prevent further deterioration of the property.

Urban Renewal

During the year a further house in the area of Townsend Road, which is scheduled for future redevelopment, was acquired by the Council. Of the 13 houses in the area, the purchase of eleven has now been completed. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of the remainder.

Compulsory Improvement of Houses

The Housing Act, 1964 provided local authorities with new powers to secure the compulsory improvement of houses, either individually at the request of the tenant, or in a whole street or streets by the declaration of improvement areas.

It was reported in 1967 that the first three representations had been received from tenants requesting the Council to use compulsory powers. Following consultations with the Council, the owners gave undertakings to carry out the necessary improvements and work has now either been completed or is in progress. No further representations were received from tenants during 1968.

6. GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The Council has continued to make Discretionary and Standard Grants for the improvement of old houses and the Public Health Department is responsible for the considerable amount of administrative work attached to the operation of these schemes. The

7. IMPROVEMENT OF PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSES

In addition to making grants to the owners of private dwellings, the Council are also proceeding with schemes of improvement and modernisation of their own property. As far back as 1958, they approved schemes for 471 dwellings out of 529 properties built before 1946. The work is made more difficult due to the wide variety of house types; 46 different layouts for pre-war properties alone.

The proposed schemes of improvement provide all the houses with amenities of a standard equivalent to that of post-war properties. Hot water supply is provided by means of a back boiler, independent boiler or immersion heater, according to type, whilst in certain instances, additional improvement is effected by the re-arrangement of sculleries, larders and coal stores.

In several of the older types, a considerably improved layout is obtained by demolishing the ground floor bathrooms and W.C. and constructing a new bathroom and W.C. on the first floor by partitioning off a section of a large bedroom. A modern electrical installation, incorporating ring mains with adequate socket outlets, is also provided. In the most recent schemes, partial central heating has been introduced.

Grant is made only on those items which fall strictly within the legal definition of "improvement", and is not attracted by the general work of modernising the dwellings. In fact, in certain properties, particularly in several types in Berkhamstead Road and Brockhurst Road, hot water supply, bathrooms, etc., are already available, but are of such an obsolete and inefficient design that the opportunity is taken to modernise the properties completely whenever tenancies fall vacant. Such schemes attract no grant under present legislation.

To date, 244 dwellings have been modernised, of which only 39 schemes have been completed by contract. Whilst every effort is made to accelerate the rate at which this work proceeds, it is difficult to interest suitable contractors, so that the main burden falls upon the Council's small direct labour staff. With the demand for repairs on the increasing stock of property under maintenance and the difficulty of recruiting building staff, labour available for modernising work is becoming increasingly limited. Whilst one contract for 14 dwellings was completed most satisfactorily this year, a second contract ran into considerable difficulties and it is unlikely the Council would employ the same firm for further work.

However, it is hoped to advertise further schemes in the future, in the hope of maintaining steady progress in this field.

8. HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was eleven. Action was in most cases the result of complaints made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957, were received during the year.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year.

9. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964, have given local authorities extensive powers to control houses which are let in lodgings or which are occupied by more than one family. Suitable and sufficient facilities may be required together with provision for means of escape in case of fire. The number of occupants may be limited according to the accommodation or facilities available. Where management standards are bad a code of management may be applied and in extreme cases local authorities may take over the property under control orders.

During the year works were completed on two multi-occupied houses in respect of which notices had previously been served requiring the provision of improved facilities and satisfactory means of escape in case of fire.

Following surveys by a Council Public Health Inspector and an officer from the Fire Prevention Department of the County Council, notices requiring the provision of satisfactory means of escape in case of fire were served on the persons in control of three further multi-occupied houses. A period of six months was allowed for completion of the works. The attention of the persons responsible was also drawn informally to a number of defects and deficiencies in relation to the facilities at these houses.

Action to deal with the very unsatisfactory conditions arising from overcrowding, lack of facilities and means of escape at another multi-occupied house, were commenced. This house had been multi-occupied in 1966 when notices requiring improved facilities and means of escape had been served. The necessary works were not carried out, and when the matter of enforcement was being considered, the house ceased to be multi-occupied so that no further proceedings could be taken. When the premises again became subject to legislation appropriate to multi-occupation, the original notices were invalid and the procedure had to be started all over again. Inspections by public health inspectors and fire prevention officers were completed, but difficulties in ascertaining particulars of ownership then caused delay in serving the notices.

With the arrival of further immigrants, the number of houses in occupation by more than one family is steadily increasing, and the enforcement of proper standards in this class of property has to be accepted as a regular and continuing duty of the local authority.

10. COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1968 the Council rehoused 149 families, including 67 exchanges. Since 1946 Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 2,717 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

| Year | Temporary Bungalows | Houses | Flats | O.A.P. Bungalows and Flatlets | COUNCIL TOTALS | HOUSES ERECTED BY | |
|---------------|---------------------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | | | | | | PRIVATE ENTERPRISE | HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS |
| 1946/ 1950 | 35 | 186 | 36 | - | 257 | 85 | - |
| 1951/ 1955 | - | 233 | 86 | 40 | 359 | 229 | 10 |
| 1956/ 1960 | - | 126 | 129 | - | 255 | 1,109 | 22 |
| 1961/ 1965 | - | 82 | 32 | 37 | 151 | 842 | - |
| 1966/ 1967 | - | 55 | 37 | - | 92 | 191 | - |
| 1968 | - | 20 | 22 | - | 42 | 98 | - |
| TOTALS | 35 | 702 | 342 | 77 | 1,156 | 2,554 | 32 |

At the close of the year 36 dwellings were under construction by the Council, and 111 dwellings were under private construction.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the town, numbered 412 in December 1968. This number compares with 418 applicants in the previous year. The 1968 figure includes 81 applications from elderly persons or couples.

11. CARAVAN SITES

Two Licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, were in operation during the year. These sites were occupied by single caravans only and the Licences were for limited periods. The conditions imposed by the Licences, although based on the model standards, were suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the sites.

Council's Caravan Site - Trapps Lane

The process of running-down the Council's caravan site at Trapps Lane was completed during the year. This site has been developed as a new Council housing estate. The majority of the families occupying the caravans were offered accommodation in Council houses.

12. RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Under this Act it is the duty of the local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice.

The Council's duties are carried out by one full-time Rodent Officer working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspectors. His time is divided between surveys and treatments of all types of premises, including farms. Surveys are carried out as a result of notification by occupiers or in the course of the general inspection of the District. The table following shows that 194 premises were inspected as a result of notifications, and that 1,414 properties were inspected in the course of routine surveys.

The majority of infestations discovered are treated by the Rodent Officer, only a few occupiers preferring to carry out their own treatments. A charge is made for treatments at business premises.

One informal notice requiring the occupier of a property to deal with an infestation was served during the year.

Test baiting of the Council's sewers for rats took place in October 1968. Only one of the 38 manholes baited showed any bait taken. A treatment of this and nearby manholes was duly carried out; further baiting showed that the treatment had been successful.

A summary of action taken during the year is given below:

| PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS | TYPE OF PROPERTY | |
|--|----------------------|--------------|
| | NON- AGRICULTURAL | AGRICULTURAL |
| Number of properties in district (1.4.68) | 7,812 | 37 |
| Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 194 | 1 |
| Number infested by (i) Rats | 37 | - |
| (ii) Mice | 16 | - |
| Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | 1,414 | 36 |
| Number infested by (i) Rats | 30 | 1 |
| (ii) Mice | 2 | - |
| Total number of properties where treatment for rats and/or mice has been completed | 79 | - |

13. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1961

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that rag flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of furniture, bedding, soft toys, etc., are of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Where such articles are manufactured, the Act provides for registration of the premises. The premises of one upholsterer in Chesham are registered under the Act.

During the year four "golliwog" dolls were purchased from a local retailer and sent for analysis.

The report indicated that the filling material, which consisted of rag flock, did not comply with the relevant regulations. The wholesaler and importer were contacted and it was found that the dolls had been imported from Hongkong.

The importer stopped sales of the dolls and the retailer was advised to do the same.

14. WELFARE OF ANIMALS

In recent years three Acts of Parliament have given local authorities duties in relation to the health and welfare of animals. These Acts are the Pet Animals Act, 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, and the Riding Establishments Act, 1964. The two former are administered by the District Council and the latter by the Bucks. County Council.

Since March 1966, Mr. David D. Unwin, B.Vet.Med., M.R.C.V.S., has carried out the inspection of premises and animals under the Acts enforced by the Council. Administrative provisions are dealt with by the Public Health Department.

(a) Pet Animals Act, 1951

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are sold and empowers a Local Authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

There is one licenced pet shop and one wholesaler of goldfish and tortoises in the town. The conditions attached to the licences have been complied with.

Proceedings were taken at Chesham Magistrates' Court on the 1st. May 1968 against the wholesaler for keeping a pet shop without a licence issued by the Council.

The case was proved and a fine of £10 was imposed with costs of £10. 10. Od awarded to the Council.

(b) Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on.

One licence has been in operation during the year in respect of premises accommodating 22 dogs and 26 cats. Satisfactory conditions have been maintained.

15. KNACKER'S YARD

The Knacker's Yard situated at Broadview Farm closed in February of this year.

16. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 25 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st. October 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

Twenty-seven visits were made by the Council's Health Inspectors to registered premises. On one occasion a written notice detailing two infringements of the byelaws was sent to the person responsible.

17. THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to health, and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

The sanitary accommodation at a metal polishing factory, at which five or six persons (both male and female) were employed, consisted to two container closets.

The occupier of the factory was informed that the Council considered this accommodation to be unsuitable, but lengthy correspondence and many visits were unable to bring about the installation of proper toilet facilities. The Council were at the point of instigating proceedings when the occupier vacated the premises and the owner provided new toilet and washing facilities.

Plans of new factories are examined in the Public Health Department and appropriate comments are passed to the architects concerned with a view to ensuring that sanitary conveniences and other provisions as to health meet with the statutory requirements.

The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list following.

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Descaling fluid | 1 |
| Car accessories | 1 |

Factories with Power

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Light engineering | 27 |
| Woodware, joinery and sawmills | 10 |
| Motor vehicle repairs | 18 |
| Printers | 9 |
| Brushware | 4 |
| Food manufacture and packing | 4 |
| Aircraft seats | 5 |
| Foundries | 1 |
| Injection moulding | 2 |
| Boot manufacturers | 2 |
| Instrument manufacturers | 2 |
| Shoe repairs | 2 |
| Tubular furniture | 3 |
| Scrap sorting and packing | 2 |
| Radio and TV repairers | 2 |
| Gas and electricity suppliers | 2 |
| Tailors | 2 |
| Jewellers | 1 |
| Other industries | 26 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 124 |

Outworkers

Under Section 133 of the Factories Act, 1961, the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

18. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The Act, which came into force during 1964, makes provision for securing the safety, health and welfare of persons employed to work in offices, shops and certain railway premises. The Council are responsible for enforcing the general provisions of the Act in most of the

office and shop premises in the Chesham Urban District. H.M. Inspectors of Factories enforce the general provisions of the Act in railway premises, in fuel storage depots on railway land and in factory offices. In addition, they are responsible for premises owned or occupied by the Crown and those occupied by local authorities. The fire provisions of the Act are, at most premises in the District, enforced by the Buckinghamshire County Council.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors are responsible for administration of the Authority's functions under the Act.

The Officer appointed as additional public health inspector resigned in early May, causing an inevitable disruption of work under the Act, but fortunately the Council were successful in filling the vacancy in September when it was possible to carry out the Authority's responsibilities in full once again.

Registration of Premises

Section 49 of the Act requires occupiers of premises within scope to register them with the appropriate authority. Fourteen premises were newly registered with the Council during the year. Inspection of registered premises revealed a number that were no longer within the scope of the Act and others that had closed down. In addition, some registrations were transferred to H.M. Factory Inspectorate. After removal of these premises the total number on the register at the end of the year was 202, the same as the corresponding figure for 1967.

Immediately it is known that new premises are occupied or that there has been a change of occupier at existing premises, a visit is made to ascertain if the Act will apply to the premises. The occupiers whose premises should be registered are informed of their statutory obligations under the Act and registration forms are sent to them. Whilst the responsibility for registration rests on the employer, few new employers would register unless this procedure were adopted.

Inspection of Premises

All premises registered with the authority have now received at least one general inspection under the Act. A "general inspection" means one in which notice is taken of compliance with all the provisions of the Act which the authority enforce. During 1968, 94 premises received a general inspection and the total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises (including general inspections) was 275.

Operation and General Provisions of the Act

Previous reports have commented on the fact that few premises on initial inspection are found to meet all the requirements of the Act. Whilst it is open for the local authority to take legal proceedings for contraventions as soon as they are discovered, it is the general practice to adopt an informal approach in the first instance and only institute legal proceedings in the last resort. This informal action has been followed in Chesham and on the whole has met with a very good response from owners and occupiers who have readily co-operated in bringing their premises up to the standards required. An indication of the measure of co-operation achieved can be gained by looking at the number of notices served and complied with. Since 1964 when the Act came into operation no less than 209 informal notices have been served. 150 of the notices were served in 1967 when the majority of first general inspections were carried out. At the end of 1968 only 19 notices had not been complied with. Furthermore, these 19 outstanding notices were all served as recently as 1967 or 1968.

This most satisfactory situation must not be taken to mean that once compliance has been achieved enforcement of the Act through further inspections is unnecessary or can be relaxed. It has already become obvious to inspecting officers that standards at premises deteriorate if regular visits are not made to remind occupiers of their obligation. The need to maintain visits is emphasised by the frequency with which changes occur in the managerial and supervisory staff employed in the premises concerned. These new personnel are often ignorant of the scope and provisions of the Act and consequently fail to maintain standards already met or to carry out such additional works as may be necessary to meet changes in circumstances. The matters most likely to be overlooked are the provision of extra sanitary and washing facilities to provide for an increase in the number of employees, the provision of proper safety guards to new machinery and such routine tasks as the maintenance of acceptable standards of cleanliness, heating and lighting. Failure to provide or replenish first aid boxes or to provide employees with information on the Act are other items easily forgotten.

During 1968 a total of 27 written notices notifying 56 contraventions were sent out to the persons responsible. The most frequently occurring defects were related to the maintenance of suitable sanitary conveniences and washing facilities and the safety of floors, passages and stairs.

One of the few serious contraventions of the Act still outstanding concerns the absence of adequate sanitary conveniences and washing facilities at office and shop premises situated in a multi-occupied building in the High Street. Warning letters were first addressed to the "owner" in June 1967. In August 1968 Counsel's opinion was obtained on the matter of responsibility for providing the facilities

and the proper persons against whom proceedings could be brought under the Act. At the end of the year the contraventions still existed and acting in accordance with the legal advice received the Council has informed the persons responsible that proceedings will be instituted if the offences are still being committed after the 13th. March 1969.

An analysis of the total contraventions recorded during the year is given below:

| <u>Section of Act</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Number of Contraventions found & notified to owners or occupiers</u> |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| 3 | Cleanliness of rooms and furnishings | 2 |
| 6 | Temperature of workrooms | 6 |
| 8 | Lighting of premises | 2 |
| 9 | Provision and maintenance of sanitary conveniences | 10 |
| 10 | Provision and maintenance of washing facilities | 10 |
| 16 | Safety of floors, passages and stairs | 8 |
| 24 | First Aid materials | 4 |
| 50 | Information for employees | 8 |
| | Other matters | 6 |
| | Total | 56 |

New Offices and Shops

As previously reported all plans which are submitted to the Council and show new offices, shops or other premises likely to be within scope of the Act are examined by a Public Health Inspector before approval. Architects have still to be reminded about the requirements of the Act and relevant Regulations. This advisory work is restricted somewhat by the fact that most new offices and shops are built to let and at the time when plans are submitted the type of business and number of employees are not known. The facilities agreed upon have therefore to be based upon provisional figures and likely activities.

Accidents

Section 48 of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 requires occupiers of premises which are subject to the Act to report any accident which causes the death of an employee, or disables an employee from doing his normal work for more than three days. Reports of accidents must be submitted to the authority on the prescribed form OSR.2.

There were eleven accidents notified during the period covered by this Report.

Four casualties were due to fire, and all occurred in a local supermarket when a number of staff were trapped in the stock room on the first floor. They had been unable to open the locked emergency escape on this floor, but were rescued by workmen outside who cut through security bars to give means of escape from a window on to a flat roof. Investigations were carried out by officers of the Buckinghamshire Fire Brigade.

Prescribed Particulars

The appendix to the report contains the following tables, giving the prescribed particulars on the administration of the Act.

TABLE A - Registrations and General Inspections

TABLE B - Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to
Registered Premises

TABLE C - Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises
by Workplace

TABLE D - Exemptions

TABLE E - Prosecutions

TABLE F - Staff

S E C T I O N V I I

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. MILK

The Milk and Dairies Regulations

Since 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

One shopkeeper, intending to sell either 'pasteurised' or 'ultra-heat treated' milk in bottles or cartons, was newly registered as a milk distributor during the year. A total of ten milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. One producer/retailer operates from premises in the District.

Milk supplies are samples regularly by Officers of the Bucks. County Council and tested for both compositional and bacteriological quality.

Tests to check the cleansing of milk bottles at the local dairy are arranged regularly by the Public Health Inspectors.

During the year 24 washed milk bottles in four batches were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. All results were satisfactory.

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus

No action to deal with infected supplies of milk was necessary during the year.

2. ICE-CREAM

The Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the ice-cream sold from the shops is of the pre-packed variety supplied by large firms distributing on a national scale. The vehicles from which ice-cream is sold are also operated by firms whose premises are situated outside the district.

No samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during 1968.

3. LIQUID EGG

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

These Regulations which came into operation on the 1st. January 1964, require the pasteurisation of liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken out on the food manufacturer's premises and used within 24 hours. The Regulations prescribe the method of pasteurisation and the test to be satisfied. Enforcement is the responsibility of local authorities. There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

4. FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(a) Food Businesses

The table following shows the categories of trade carried on in the food premises in the district subject to these Regulations.

| Principal Business | No. | Fitted to comply with Reg. 16 + | Reg. 19 * applicable | Fitted to comply with Reg. 19 |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Grocery | 38 | 38 | 38 | 36 |
| Greengrocery | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Butchers | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Wet Fish | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Fish Frying | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Bakers | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Sweet Shops | 16 | 16 | 16 | 10 |
| Catering | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Canteens | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| School Meals | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Manufacturing | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Licensed Premises | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Clubs, Halls | 11 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Warehouses | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| | 151 | 151 | 148 | 137 |

NOTE: + Regulation 16 requires the provision of wash-hand basins supplied with hot and cold or warm water.

* Regulation 19 requires in all food premises in which open food is handled the provision of sinks or other facilities for washing food and equipment. The occupiers of the 11 premises not fitted to comply with Regulation 19 have been granted Certificates of Exemption by the Council and in granting these exemptions the Council had regard to the nature of the food handled, mainly fruit, vegetables and confectionery, and the limited equipment used upon the premises.

(b) Inspection of Food Premises

The inspection of premises where food is stored, manufactured or sold continues to be an important duty of the Public Health Inspectors. Visits are made to all such premises and those with a record of poor hygiene are given frequent inspections.

As much emphasis is given to the manner in which food is handled as to the premises themselves, for it is essential that correct temperature control is maintained over certain foods.

During the year, proceedings were taken under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, in respect of a catering establishment where the cleanliness of the premises and equipment, and the prevention of contamination of food, was well below the required standard. Fines and costs totalling £80. 10. 0d were imposed on the proprietor who subsequently gave up the business.

During the year the Inspectors made 351 visits to premises subject to the Regulations. On 20 occasions written notices detailing infringements found were sent to the persons responsible. The matters concerned are summarised below:

| Regulation | Item | No. of Cases |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 6 | Equipment not kept clean | 6 |
| 8 | Food exposed to risk of contamination | 3 |
| 14 | Sanitary conveniences not kept clean | 4 |
| 14 | Defects to sanitary conveniences | 2 |
| 14 | "Wash your Hands" notice not displayed | 20 |
| 16 | Washing facilities not kept clean | 5 |
| 16 | Washing facilities not maintained | 13 |
| 17 | Absence of first aid materials | 6 |
| 18 | Inadequate clothing accommodation | 1 |
| 19 | Sinks not provided or maintained | 5 |
| 20 | Inadequate lighting to food room | 2 |
| 21 | Inadequate ventilation to food room | 1 |
| 23 | Food rooms not kept clean | 28 |
| 23 | Food rooms in disrepair | 8 |
| 24 | Accumulation of refuse | 4 |
| | Total | 108 |

(c) Food Hygiene and the Public

During the year, the Council obtained a supply of "Shopping Quiz" leaflets which were produced by the Health Education Council Limited to stimulate interest among the public in the improvement of food handling standards.

The leaflets were given wide distribution throughout the town, in particular through women's organisations.

(d) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

These Regulations had, by the end of the year, been in operation for two years, yet many persons operating stalls and vehicles are totally ignorant of their existence.

A useful explanatory booklet on the Regulations, published by the Health Education Council Limited, has been distributed to local food businesses carrying on a delivery service. In an accompanying letter the opportunity was taken to point out to traders that unless covered by certain defined exemptions, they had a choice of either wrapping or otherwise protecting the food carried, or of providing water supply, washing facilities and first aid equipment on the delivery vehicles. The point does not yet appear to be fully understood or accepted by some retailers.

Eighteen inspections were made of stalls, mobile shops and delivery vehicles. A large number of retailers operate over a wide area and, when unsatisfactory conditions are found in these cases, it is usual to notify the Public Health Inspector of the authority from which they operate. On seven occasions written notices detailing infringements found were sent to the persons responsible. The matters are summarised as follows:

| Regulation | Item | No. of Cases |
|------------|--|--------------|
| 5 | Stalls/Vehicles not kept clean | 1 |
| 7 | Food exposed to contamination | 1 |
| 9 | Overclothing/head covering not worn | 1 |
| 13 | Name/address not displayed | 4 |
| 15 | Supply of water not provided | 1 |
| 16 | Wash basin not provided or maintained | 2 |
| 17 | First-aid materials not provided or maintained | 1 |
| 18 | Sinks not provided or maintained | 2 |
| | Total | 13 |

(e) Poultry Inspection

The provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, apply to premises at which poultry are processed for sale and local authorities are responsible for seeing that the Act and Regulations are complied with. There are no large poultry processing premises within the district, but processing on a small scale is carried on at a few premises. The attention of two of these processors has been drawn to the Act and Regulations, and to help them in bringing their premises and practices up to the required standards copies of the Code of Practice - Poultry Dressing and Packing - have been supplied. Structural improvements have been made at one of the premises.

No inspection of poultry at the premises has been carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

5. REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

| Purpose for which Registered | Premises on Register 1967 | Added to Register 1968 | Removed from Register 1968 | Total on Register 31.12.68 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sale and storage of ice-cream | 61 | 1 | 1 | 61 |
| Manufacture of ice-cream | 2 | - | - | 2 * |
| Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc. | 24 | - | 4 | 20 |
| Fish Frying | 4 | - | - | 4 |
| Totals | 91 | 1 | 5 | 87 |

*No ice-cream was manufactured at these premises in 1968

6. SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Since September 1959 no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham. The few local butchers wishing to buy meat "on the hoof" now make use of the slaughtering facilities available in adjoining districts.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st. December 1967 | - | 3 |
| Applications for Licences considered during 1968 | - | 0 |
| Applications for Renewals considered during 1968 | - | 2 |
| Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st. December 1968 | - | 2 |

7. INSPECTION OF FOOD

The Food and Drugs Act, 1955, gives local authorities wide powers to deal with offences in relation to the sale of food. Section 2 of the Act deals with food not of the nature, substance or quality demanded, and in certain instances, complaints falling under this Section are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council, which is

the Food and Drugs Authority for this district. In other cases, however, where it appears that the offence is local in character, e.g. the sale of mouldy food by a shopkeeper, as the result of poor stock control, the matter is dealt with by this Authority.

The sale or exposure for sale of food unfit for human consumption is covered by Section 8 of the Act, and all cases are handled by this Council's Public Health Inspectors.

Eighteen complaints relating to food or food containers were received during the year. One of these was passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks. County Council. The remaining seventeen cases were investigated by the Council's Public Health Inspectors. The Council instituted legal proceedings in four of the seventeen cases and a total of £65 in fines and £45. 2. 0d in costs were imposed by the Court.

Many shopkeepers are still failing to operate a proper stock control system. Products which can rapidly deteriorate, unless stored under suitable conditions and sold in proper rotation, were often found to be without any code or reference by which the shopkeeper could tell the date upon which it was delivered to his premises by a wholesaler. The manufacturers of perishable products often advise the retailer to put his own mark on the product when it comes into his shop.

The four cases in which legal proceedings were taken involved mouldy breakfast cereal, a mouldy fruit pie, maggots in cheese and a metal object in sponge pudding.

Unsound Food Condemned

A considerable amount of unsound food was voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year, details of which are set out below. Much of this food was condemned as a result of a fire at a supermarket.

| | tons | <u>Weight</u> cwts. | lbs. |
|--------------------------------|------|------------------------|------|
| Meat at retail shops | 2 | 4 | 55 |
| Cooked meats and meat products | - | - | - |
| Canned meats | | 9 | 73 |
| Fish | | | 7 |
| Other foods | 15 | 1 | 10 |
| Total | 17 | 15 | 33 |

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are normally destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

B.H. BURNE
Medical Officer of Health

L.D. SATURLEY
Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1968
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

| PREMISES | Number on Register | Number of | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power) | 2 | 2 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power) | 124 | 97 | 23 | - |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites) | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| TOTAL | 127 | 100 | 23 | - |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| PARTICULARS | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 23 | 18 | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 24 | 19 | - | - | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

| Nature of Work | Section 133 | | Section 134 | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing) Making Apparel) etc. Cleaning and Washing | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Curtains and furniture hangings | 31 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brush making | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 46 | - | - | - | - | - |

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Prescribed particulars to be included in the annual report to the Minister of Labour by local authorities and the Greater London Council under Section 60

TABLE A - REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

| Class of Premises (1) | Number of premises newly registered during the year (2) | Total number of registered premises at end of year (3) | Number of registered premises receiving one or more general in- spection during the year (4) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Offices | 2 | 68 | 17 |
| Retail shops | 11 | 123 | 69 |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses | - | 3 | 2 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| Fuel storage depots | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 14 | 202 | 94 |

TABLE B - NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

275

TABLE C - ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

| Class of Workplace (1) | Number of persons employed (2) |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Offices | 609 |
| Retail Shops | 637 |
| Wholesale department, warehouses | 100 |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 31 |
| Canteens | 2 |
| Fuel storage depots | - |
| TOTAL | 1,379 |
| TOTAL MALES | 551 |
| TOTAL FEMALES | 828 |

Part IV - Washing Facilities (Section 10)

| Class of Premises | No. of exemptions current at end of year (2) | During the year | | | | | Appeals to Courts against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption No. made (8) No. allowed (9) |
|--|---|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|---|
| | | No. of exemptions | | No. of applications | | | |
| | | newly granted (3) | extended (4) | expired or withdrawn (5) | refused by employees (6) | | |
| (1) | | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) | |
| Offices) Retail shops) Wholesale shops,) warehouses) Catering establish-) ments open to) public, canteens) Fuel storage depots) | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL |

TABLE E - PROSECUTIONS

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in 1968 = NIL

| Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22 | NIL |
|--|-----|
| | |

| Number of interim orders granted | = | NIL |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| | | |

TABLE F - STAFF

Number of Inspectors appointed under Section 52 (1) or (5) of the Act = 3

Number of other staff employed for most of their time on work in connection with the Act

